



Fauquier County Office of Adult Court Services

Annual Report
FY2002



Pretrial Services A Resounding Success

In FY 2002, the long-awaited pretrial services program was fully implemented in the Fauquier and Rappahannock County courts. The program is designed to assist judges and magistrates in making better-informed bail decisions and to provide supervision services to defendants released to the program's custody while awaiting trial. Utilization of pre-trial services by the courts and the magistrates was high from the start and has rapidly increased. In FY2002, 175 misdemeanor defendants and 167 felon defendants were interviewed. Two hundred and seventy seven defendants were placed under pretrial supervision. Of these, 81% of misdemeanor defendants and 71% of felon defendants made it to trial successfully without failing to appear or incurring new charges, positive drug screens or technical violations. The pretrial

staff also assists in expediting the court dockets by preparing indigence verifications for those defendants seeking court-appointed counsel to represent them.

(See continued story page 2)



ACS Staff with The Honorable Charles B. Foley, Judge of the Fauquier County General District Court. Front Row (Left to Right) Pretrial Services Officer Angel Walters, Judge Foley, Assistant Director Tom Pavelko, Office Associate 2 Jeanne Stiltner. Back Row: Local Probation Officer Dawn Hynes, Local Probation Officer Stephanie Mathis, Court Services Officer Brendan King, Pretrial Investigator Tiffany Embrey, Court Services Officer Carrie Pearson

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Local Probation Referrals Still On The Rise

In FY 2002, the Fauquier County Office of Adult Court Services received 487 local probation referrals from the courts of Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties. This represented an increase in 11% over referrals in FY2001 and more than 100% over referrals in FY1996. Is the increase in local probationers an indication that the crime rate in Fauquier

County is growing? "No," responds ACS Director, Catherine Heritage. "According to State Police reports, the crime rate has not measurably risen at all during this time period. In fact, in some of these years, the crime rate has actually gone down while the number of probation referrals has gone up." So what accounts for this anomaly? "I think the

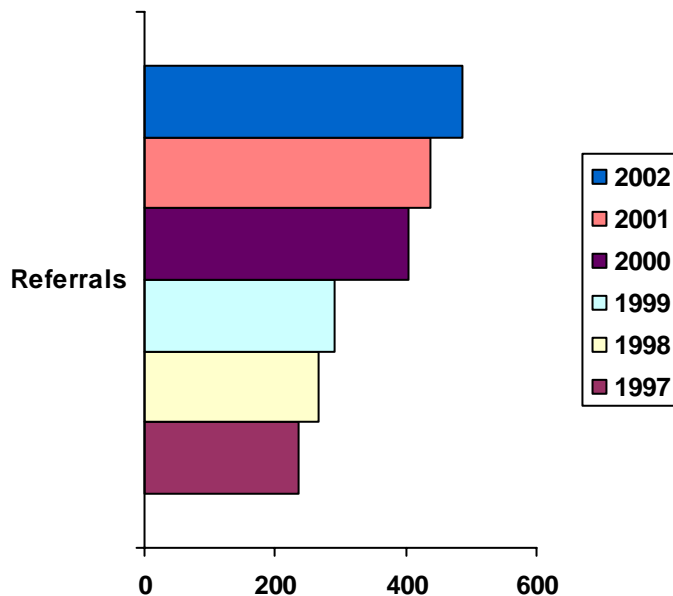
courts are just referring more people to local probation because they know that we will enforce the court's order and because probation is so much cheaper than detaining offenders at the local jail," says Assistant Director Tom Pavelko.

(see continued story page 2)

Statistics for FY 2002

- Community Service Labor: **5,814 hours (\$29,942)**
- Court Costs Collected: **\$43,003**
- Victim Restitution: **\$16,811**
- Rate of Successful Closure Probation: **70%**
- Rate of Successful Closure Pretrial: **81%**

Local Probation Growth Continues (from page one)



Offenders who are placed on local probation by the courts are required to strictly adhere to the conditions imposed. General conditions include remaining of good behavior, reporting any police contacts or new charges, appearing for visits with the assigned officer as scheduled, random drug screening, and advising the officer of any changes in residence or employment. Special conditions may include performance of community service labor, payment of court costs, fines and victim restitution, and participation in substance abuse, mental health or anger management counseling.

In FY2002, the majority of local probation placements were made by the Fauquier County General District Court. But case loads from the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, the Circuit Court and cases transferred from other jurisdictions have also increased. The Rappahannock County courts continue to use the local probation program, but in proportion to their small dockets, the Rappahannock case load remains relatively small. In view of the cost-effectiveness of local probation when compared to jail detention, it is anticipated that referrals will only continue to grow.

"The pretrial services program has proven itself to be a valuable asset to the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office for decisions and recommendations regarding bail issues."

*J. Gregory Ashwell
Deputy
Commonwealth's
Attorney*

Pretrial Services A Successful Venture (from page one)

Funding for the development of pretrial services was made available through a state grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. Although pretrial services programs have existed since the 1980's in many Virginia localities, Fauquier County has been waiting since 1993 due to limited state funding and mandated guidelines determining areas with the greatest need. For

several years, Loudoun County, which shares the Twentieth Judicial Circuit with Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties, was offering pretrial services to the courts while the other two localities were not.

Technological advancements have recently brought more efficiency to the delivery of pretrial services in Fauquier

County. In FY2002, pretrial officers began conducting jail interviews on laptop computers via dial-up connection to the main server. In addition, the capability for video-teleconference interviews among the courts, jail and magistrates was added. The ACS staff is excited about the success of pretrial and is continually seeking to improve services.

Go Team ACS !

The staff of Adult Court Services prides itself on teamwork and giving something back to the community. In addition to encouraging teambuilding in the office, the staff also participates in a number of extracurricular volunteer events. The annual Bench and Bar softball game is always a favorite for players and fans alike. In FY2002, ACS also participated as a team in the serving of the Homegrown Dinner at the Fauquier County Fair in August. Several staff also volunteered to assist with

litter pick-up on County Recycling Day, while others helped out at the Fall Farm Tour. In FY2002, ACS staff participated in several charity golf tournaments, the Lunch Buddies Program, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Community Alliance for Drug Rehabilitation and Education and the Fauquier Career Resource Center. In addition, ACS collected over 300 canned goods at Christmas for donation to the needy.



ACS Staff says "Bring on the crowds!" at the County Homegrown Dinner

FAUQUIER COUNTY OFFICE OF ADULT COURT SERVICES DEPARTMENTAL BALANCED SCORECARD

CUSTOMER PERSPECTIVE

Increase rate of successful probation closure to 75%

Increase rate of successful pretrial closure to 85%

Increase number of community service labor sites by at least three.

Expedite judicial bail decisions by providing pretrial reports to the courts.

Update/revise departmental website.

Conduct survey of Criminal Justice Board members to determine the need for additional public safety resources.

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

Achieve an average daily cost of supervision per offender of \$3.50 or less.

Increase number of community service labor hours placed and monitored to 6,500.

Increase amount of victim restitution, court costs and fines collected to \$60,000.

Acquire grant funding to increase resources for growing Hispanic population.

Reduce average length of jail stay by conducting daily interviews.

INTERNAL PROCESS PERSPECTIVE

Partner with Community Services Board to provide enhanced substance abuse services to offenders.

Partner with adult education community to provide enhanced vocational opportunities to offenders.

Reduce the number of Spanish-speaking detainees not interviewed by partnering with the adult education community.

LEARNING/GROWTH PERSPECTIVE

Participate in the county's mentoring program.

Offer staff training on the topic of cultural diversity.

Expand videoconferencing capability between Adult Court Services office, courts and jail.

Balancing the Score: What Gets Measured Gets Done

In 2002, the Fauquier County government began the process of using the "Balanced Scorecard", a strategic planning method developed at Harvard University, to develop long-term objectives and strategies for governmental operations. The Office of Adult Court Services was the pilot department for development of a "subsidiary scorecard" aligned toward furthering the county's overall objec-

tives. These include balancing quality services with fiscal integrity, managing growth responsibly, and conducting county government openly. In the context of the Balanced Scorecard, ACS attempted to develop strategies designed toward meeting both the current and future needs of the criminal justice system and the local community. One of these strategies involved obtaining funding to teach probation officers and law enforcement officers a basic understanding of Span-

ish for our growing Hispanic population. ACS developed and submitted a successful state grant application and entered into a partnership with Lord Fairfax Community College, which will offer these courses in the spring of 2003. Other strategies include increasing the current performance rates of both the probation and pretrial programs, technological improvements, and assisting in the professional development of new county employees by participating in the Mentoring

Program. The ACS staff worked together to develop our new strategies and ways to effectively measure them. "It's clear that what gets measured is what gets done", comments Director Katie Heritage, who has acted as one of the lead staff to the County Balanced Scorecard Strategy Team. "We are excited about using this new method to help further our county's organizational success."

**Fauquier County
Office of Adult Court Services**

Fauquier County Office of Adult Court Services
87 Lee Highway #21
Warrenton, Virginia 20186

Phone: (540) 349-3138

Fax: (540) 349-1765

Email: jeanne.stiltner@fauquiercounty.gov

*Effective Alternatives for the Courts
and the Community*



**We're on the web at
www.fauquiercounty.gov**

A BIG "THANK YOU!" TO ALL OF OUR COMMUNITY SERVICE LABOR SITES

In FY2002, over 5,800 hours (approximately \$30,000*) of court-ordered community service labor were performed at government agencies, public parks and charitable organizations. The sites that participate in this program and the probationers who perform the work benefit mutually. Community service sites receive volunteer labor while probationers learn the value of civic responsibility and giving something back to the community. Many thanks to all of our 2003 community service sites for their help and cooperation:

**C. M. Crockett Park
Vint Hill Farms Station
Sky Meadows State Park
Town of Remington
Fauquier County Operations and Services
Rappahannock County Landfill
Salvation Army
American Red Cross
Remington Volunteer Fire Department
Fauquier SPCA**

* All Labor Calculations Based Upon Current Minimum Wage

Message from the Director

FY2002 has been a busy and exciting year for the Office of Adult Court Services. Our staff has faced several challenges—including continuing increases in both probation and pretrial caseloads. Making the most of scarce resources in a tight fiscal climate is a hurdle we have shared with other government agencies. We have continued to seek out new resources and grant opportunities wherever possible.

This year has led to the expansion of both our staff and our office space to accommodate the growth in court referrals. We wished good-bye to Court Services Aide Lee Somerford, who left ACS to join the Prince William County Police force. We welcomed aboard Court Services Officer Brendan King. We were happy to be able to continue our annual tradition of hosting a domestic violence workshop at Airlie Center in March. This year's topic was "Assisting the Victims of Domestic Violence Navigate the Court System". In the Spring of 2003, we will be hosting another domestic violence prevention forum—this time on the topic of effective enforcement of protective orders.

It has been my privilege this year to serve as President of the Virginia Community Criminal Justice Association. The VCCJA is a state-wide association representing local probation and pretrial programs, Community Criminal Justice Boards and other criminal justice agencies across the Commonwealth.

This has been a wonderful opportunity to work with other localities and to engage in public safety initiatives with far-reaching benefits.

As Fauquier County's pilot department for implementation of the Balanced Scorecard, ACS has experienced a vast learning curve in strategic planning. This process, however, has helped us to understand how local governments function as not just a collection of departments—but as overall organizations.

In closing, the ACS staff would like to extend their thanks to all of our colleagues at the state and local levels who have lent their support to our goals in FY2002. We are looking forward to another successful year in FY2003!



Catherine M. Heritage, Director